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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

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Thursday, July 29, 1943.
New Orleans, Louisiana.

TRUCK CROP NEWS FROM FIELD STATISTICIANS' REPORTS
Released July 15, 1943 - Washington, D. C.

GENERAL: Commercial truck crops in most late producing sections showed some improvement during the first half of July, with favorable growing weather prevailing for the most part. In earlier areas, however, yields of late crops, such as beans, tomatoes, cantaloups and watermelons, were reduced by hot, dry weather, especially in Arkansas and Tennessee, and by hot, rainy weather in North Carolina.

Indications are that during the remainder of July supplies of carrots, snap beans, beets, cabbage and tomatoes may be somewhat heavier than in 1942. Somewhat lighter supplies of other commercial truck crops are in prospect this summer, with onions, watermelons, celery, cucumbers, cantaloups, and spinach showing the more pronounced decreases from last summer. Combined production of commercial truck crops from which most market supplies will come during the next few weeks is indicated to be 14 percent below last year, but excluding cantaloups and watermelons the decrease is only 6 percent. At least part of this decrease will be offset, however, by Victory Garden production this year.

SNAP BEANS: Light harvest of early North Georgia snap beans has started from areas around Blue Ridge, Ellijay, Blairsville, and Clayton. Excessive moisture has retarded planting of the large acreage usually planted in July for harvest in August and September. The Johnson County, Tennessee, first crop is moving in increasing volume, but excessive moisture and beetles damaged the crop. Most of the late crop has been planted although some growers have been delayed by rains. In the Henderson County area of North Carolina, heavy rains drastically reduced yields of first plantings of snap beans, and harvest from this acreage is about over. Harvest from second plantings in this area, now underway, should continue until early August.

CABBAGE: Rather good supplies of cabbage are available in the California Coastal areas and in the Southern districts of the State.

Movement of the Colorado early crop from Canon City is over the peak. Good quality cabbage is now moving from the Denver-Brighton section. Shipments from this acreage will increase steadily in volume during the next two weeks, reaching the peak in August.

In western North Carolina, light movement of fair quality cabbage has started. Supplies in volume should be available throughout August. In Georgia, movement of cabbage is now general from the Dahlonega-Gadistown-Ellijay section of North Georgia, and all mountain county commercial areas will be in full harvest July 20 to August 10.

CANTALOUPS: The cantaloup crop in California will be approaching full harvest during the latter part of July. Picking has started in the San Joaquin Valley and by the first of August this district should be in fairly heavy production. In Arizona, harvest of cantaloups is now virtually completed.

Texas supplies will show a material reduction beginning the last half of July in all sections except the Pecos area that is just coming into production. Supplies after August 1, continuing through September, will come mainly from the Pecos area.

CARROTS: Shipment of Arizona topped carrots may continue at the present light rate for another week or 10 days. In Colorado, supplies are increasing in volume and quality is excellent. The first straight car was loaded the week of July 11 and a few cars should move each week from now until the carlot deal is ended in December.

CAULIFLOWER: Harvesting of the Colorado summer crop in the Canon City area is well along. Supplies are increasing in the Denver area and "flower" is of better quality than it was two weeks ago. Harvest should start in the San Luis Valley section the first week in August and movement should increase to fairly heavy volume by August 15, with peak loadings about mid-September tapering off gradually in October.

CELERY: The Grant crop, in Michigan, will start by the last of July. As it looks now, supplies should be very light by the middle of August. Blight is showing in the early crop but as yet has not become serious. Water has damaged some of the early fields in Muskegon, Decatur and Kalamazoo areas.

Carlot movement of Oregon celery so far this season is only about half that of the same period last year. A large portion of the supplies have been going to home markets instead of being shipped. Carlot movement is expected to increase somewhat during the next few weeks. In Washington, supplies of the Pascal variety from the South Park section of the Puget Sound area are now on the market, with some self-blanching celery also available.

GARLIC: In California, the early crop in the San Joaquin Valley is being harvested. Cool weather has held back the late plantings in the Coastal Section, and not much acreage is expected to be pulled before August.

LETTUCE: Shipments from California during the latter part of July will continue in fairly heavy volume. In Colorado, harvest has started in a light way in the heavy producing Del Norte section of the San Luis Valley and will start in the Routt County area of Northwest Colorado the last week in July. Consequently, shipments should reach rather heavy volume by the first week in August, increasing to a peak late in the month.

ONIONS: Very few onions will be available in California during the month of July. In Washington, Walla Walla and Yakima yellows are on the local wholesale market. Approximately 50 cars have been shipped to date and 400 cars are still available for shipment from the Walla Walla district. The season will end there around August 15.

PEPPERS: The peak of North Carolina green pepper shipments is past and the season will end within the next week or 10 days.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES: Digging from North Georgia acreage was delayed by a 15 day rainy period which kept fields too wet for harvesting operations. Some growers report potatoes rotting in the ground. Around mid-July potatoes from this section were moving to markets in substantial quantities, with volume supplies expected July 20 to August 10. Shipments from Tennessee increased in volume during the first half of July but carlot shipments to July 10 were about 100 less than last year. In the principal early area, yields were greatly reduced by dry weather.

In Virginia, there was heavy digging of potatoes on the Eastern Shore. During the entire first half of July, about 80 to 85 percent of the crop had been dug.

Kansas commercial potato crop in the Kaw Valley got under way about July 1, and is now about 60 percent completed.

TOMATOES: In all Arkansas areas, yields of tomatoes have been reduced by dry weather.

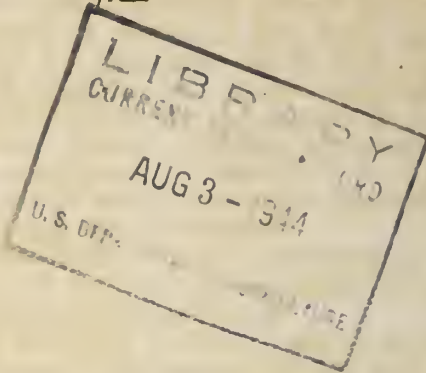
In California, tomatoes will be plentiful during the latter part of July, with supplies available from plantings in the San Joaquin Valley and in the Southern Coastal districts. The Colorado tomato outlook is promising. Western Colorado Green wraps should be on the market early in August with carlot volume moving the week of August 22.

WATERMELONS: Shipments in Texas, through July 15 totaled 1,070 cars compared with 494 cars on the same date last year and truck movement has been relatively active. Increased shipments have been at the expense of very limited supplies at all local markets. Excellent quality melons have been available and conditions have been favorable for supplies available the balance of the month to maintain the present high quality. Most of the early districts are through harvesting but mid-season (Over)

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WATERMELONS CONT'D: districts will have some production the balance of July and into districts will continue to harvest through most of August. The southwest Arkansas melon crop has been hard hit by dry weather.

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